



HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

Attorneys and Counselors
 5445 Corporate Drive, Suite 400
 Troy, Michigan 48098-2683
 Phone: 248-641-1600
 Fax: 248-641-0270
 St. Louis, MO • Washington, D.C.

AF
 JFH

DATE: February 3, 2009

No. of Pages (including this page): 3

FOR: Examiner James M. Sanders	ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW BY:
COMPANY: USPTO	<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> OVERNIGHT MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> COURIER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WILL NOT FOLLOW
FAX No.: 571-273-7007	PHONE: 571-270-7007

FROM: Robert M. Siminski - 4836-000012/US

Please let us know by phone or fax if you do not receive any of these pages.

COMMENTS:

Serial No: 10/516,630
 Filing Date: May 12, 2005
 Inventor: Christian Kotter
 Examiner: James M. Sanders
 Art Unit: 1791
 Title: Three-Dimensional Molded Part Having a Leather-Like Surface

Enclosures:

1. Request for Interview (2 pgs)

*** NOTICE ***

The information contained in this telefax transmission is intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. It may also contain privileged, confidential, attorney work product or trade secret information which is protected by law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the addressee, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone and return the original message to us at the address above via the U.S. Postal Service. We will reimburse you for any reasonable expense (including postage) for the return of the original message.

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/516,630

Filing Date: May 12, 2005

Art Unit: 1791

Examiner: James M. Sanders

Applicant: KÖTTER, Christian, et al.

Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL MOLDED PART HAVING A LEATHER-LIKE SURFACE

Attorney Docket: 4836-000012/NP

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW AFTER FINAL
PURSUANT TO §713.09 OF THE M.P.E.P.

Sir:

Pursuant to §713.00 of the Manual Patent Examining Procedure, Applicant seeks to conduct an interview after final for the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

In this regard, Applicant submits that the use of suspending agents in a pulp containing leather fibers as required under the present invention differs from MacKay. The suspending agents are utilized to maintain the short fibers in solution without precipitation. It is critical to suspend shorter fibers under the present invention in order to obtain a consistent leather-like surface. In contrast, MacKay teaches the use of acids, etc., to cause precipitation of the binder in order to wet the fibers.

While MacKay is silent as to the length of fibers, it can be assumed, based on the interest in precipitating the binder onto the fibers under MacKay that longer fibers are being utilized. Applicant proposes to amend claim 18 to clarify that the leather fibers of the pulp have a length of from 0.2 to 3mm as opposed to the presently claimed range of 0.1 to 15mm. The Buresh reference which has been cited along with MacKay teaches fibers of a length between 0.25 to 1 inch in length. A length of 0.25 inches equates to 6.35 mm which would be outside of the proposed amended claim range. Interestingly, Buresh also comments that the use of fibers outside of the 0.25 to 1 inch range result in product that has numerous drawbacks.

As for the Dimiter reference, this document teaches reconstituting pulverized leather particles to obtain products having a leather-like finish. Such particles have a upper limit range of 100 mesh which would correspond to 0.1mm. Thus, even if Dimiter were broadly interpreted as disclosing the use of "leather fibers", they still fall outside the proposed range.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant seeks an after final interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 3, 2009

By: *Robert M. Siminski*

Robert M. Siminski
Reg. No. 36,007

Harness, Dickey & Pierce
P. O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600